



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

RWANDA

COUNTRY PROFILE



Many of Rwanda's children are too young to remember the 1994 genocide, but they feel its effects nonetheless. USAID programs are helping the country to move beyond its past.

RWANDA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1962
Population: 8.4 million
Income per person: \$220 (yr)

USAID IN RWANDA

www.usaid-rwanda.rw

OVERVIEW

Eleven years after the genocide that left nearly one million Rwandans dead, major milestones on the road to recovery are in place. It is a relatively safe country in a turbulent neighborhood, but it must constantly weigh its need for internal and external security against the gradual democratization and decentralization that the country requires to promote economic growth. With a population growth rate of 2.9 percent and 329 persons per square kilometer, the land reform law currently in Parliament is long overdue. The Government of Rwanda plays an active role in the Great Lakes Region and Africa in general. Rwanda has by and large actively participated in and is committed to working with its regional partners to assure long term peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region. USAID focuses on democracy and governance, health, and rural economic growth in the country.



PROGRAMS

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Two years after presidential and parliamentary elections and the adoption of a new constitution, there is progress in shifting responsibility for government services to the local level. At the same time, because of concerns about a return of violent ethnic divisions, it has retained stringent limits on the freedom of expression of political parties and the media. USAID is actively working to create a more open political dialogue through its democracy and governance programs. USAID's work on fiscal decentralization led to the development of two systems manuals covering budget and treasury. Using these manuals, at least 85 percent of the districts in the country are producing new accounting reports on a consistent basis. A total of 551 Gacaca (traditional court) judges were trained in sexual and gender-based violence issues. These judges then trained 21,630 sector-level judges, who then trained a total of 126,182 Gacaca judges at the local level.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

Life expectancy in Rwanda is only 40 years. One child in five does not live to age five. HIV/AIDS prevalence at 5.1 percent indicates an entrenched epidemic. USAID programs reduce maternal and neonatal mortality; improve the quality and sustained use of family planning; reduce malnutrition

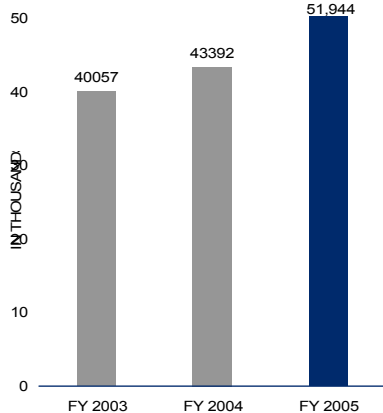


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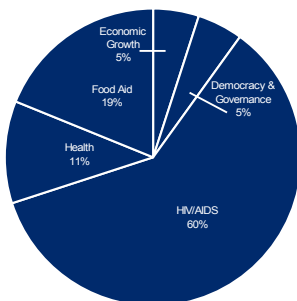
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COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA



Percent of FY 2005 Budget for Each Area



Economic Growth: \$2,553,000
Democracy & Governance: \$2,927,000
Health: \$6,000,000
Food Aid: \$9,800,000
HIV/AIDS: \$30,664,701

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among children; prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; and protect the health of the poor during decentralization. For example, USAID encourages community-managed pre-paid health insurance schemes (mutuelles), in part because a mutuelle member is five times more likely to seek modern health care than a nonmember. Mutuelles contribute to stronger financial capacity at their partner health facilities, with some generating up to 75 percent of total revenue for their corresponding health center. Overall membership is now over 386,359.

Rwanda is a focus country under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and began full implementation of this program in 2004. With USAID support, a total 48 clinical facilities are providing a combination of services, 28 provide voluntary counseling and testing services to over 80,000 people, 34 facilities provide prevention of mother to child transmission and 12 sites are providing anti-retroviral therapy.

INCREASING RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Rwandans' precarious living situation was threatened in 2004, when poor rainfall reduced agricultural production and food prices increased sharply. To reduce the likelihood of this happening again, USAID's economic growth program expands opportunities in rural areas and increases the diversity of off-farm productive enterprises, agricultural productivity, household level incomes, employment, and corresponding rural financial services for targeted communities. Rural infrastructure improvements contribute to increased productivity and diversification of income.

Even with poor rainfall, in 2004 the coffee sector made progress with important price and production gains—prices received increased by 91 percent—in the higher priced fully washed coffee where USAID is assisting producers. Membership in USAID-assisted microfinance institutions increased significantly from 1,161 in 2003 to 18,212 in 2004. In an effort to increase credit in the underserved agricultural sector, USAID instituted a loan portfolio guarantee agreement with Banque de Kigali, the leading commercial bank in Rwanda, which will lead to up to \$2 million in extra credit for the agricultural sector.

Food assistance activities contribute to employment, introduction of improved agricultural technologies, agri-business development, incomes and food security. For example, USAID works with farmers' organizations to promote soil and water conservation through terracing steep slopes, land reclamation in the wetlands, and other improved agricultural practices.

On behalf of the American people, the U.S. government has provided humanitarian assistance and economic development to those in need around the world since the Marshall Plan.